



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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"THE LEGACY ENDURES":
Smithsonian's Show Tells Story of Waterfowl Conservation;
Duck Stamp

One of America's oldest and most enduring folk traditions--waterfowling--will be highlighted in a new exhibition on the history of the Federal Duck Stamp program and the waterfowl conservation movement. "The Legacy Endures" will open July 1 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

The exhibition, which will be on view to the public through December, will offer both the novice and experienced sportsman the chance to examine a century's worth of hunting artifacts ranging from antique fowling guns to skillfully crafted duck decoys. The exhibit will focus on conservation efforts made possible through the sale of Federally administered Duck Stamps, many of which will be on display.

Sounds of ducks and geese fill the exhibition gallery as visitors look at text panels, old photographs, and special illustrations telling the history of waterfowl conservation. The exhibit will be complemented by a special "hands-on" activity center.

A number of rare objects associated with Duck Stamps will be on display, including a complete set of Duck Stamps (blocks and singles), prints, die proofs, and a number of original pieces of Duck Stamp art. Most of the objects are from the museum's National Philatelic Collection, the official repository for all original Duck Stamp die proofs; Ducks Unlimited, a private conservation group; and the collections of private individuals.

The exhibit also will feature antique duck decoys, waterfowl nesting boxes, bird bands, and other items associated with the Nation's waterfowl management program. Included, too, will be a 10-foot-long punt gun and a 7-barrel battery gun used by early illegal market hunters to shoot large numbers of waterfowl. A "touch table" will enable young visitors to handle such items as a duck decoy, marsh grasses, and bird bands.

Two murals painted by Bob Hines, former national wildlife artist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will identify many of the waterfowl species and locate the four principal North American flyways traveled by ducks and geese as they migrate up and down North America each year.

Various special programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibit, including lectures by noted wildlife experts and conservationists; and demonstrations such as duck calling techniques, waterfowl illustration, and decoy carving. Federal Duck Stamps will be on sale for \$10 at the museum's Headsville Post Office. "The Legacy Endures" was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution, is devoted to the collection, care, study, and exhibition of objects reflecting the American experience. Located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily; summer hours (May 28-September 5) are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information on the exhibition, contact Susan Foster, Office of Public Affairs, National Museum of American History, 202-357-3129.